

REMARKS

Claims 9-11, 16-20, 25-31, 39-44 and 51-53 are currently pending. Claims 1-8, 12-15, 21-24, 32-38, and 45-50 are canceled, and claims 52-53 are new.

1. Claims 9-11, 16-20, 25-31, 40-42, 44, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (US 2001/0041992, hereinafter "Lewis"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The PTO states that it is relying on the priority date from the parent application 09/523,569 and states that based on review of the parent application it is believed that the portions of the child application cited are fully supported by the parent application. However, the PTO relies upon FIGs. 4H, 4I, and 4J, and paragraphs 0110-0111, which are not found in the parent application. While the PTO asserts in the Advisory Action of January 28, 2008 that the parent application and in particular, FIG. 4D of the parent application provides support for the relied upon teachings, FIG. 4D and its associated text are inadequate for the reasons outlined below. Accordingly, the disclosure relied upon by the PTO has an effective priority of March 12, 2001, after the November 22, 2000 priority of the present application.

Present claim 9 is directed to a method for documenting medical findings of a physical examination. The method includes accepting from a user a first selection of an anatomical feature based on a first graphical representation of anatomical features. The method also includes displaying a second interface including a second graphical representation of anatomical features and a first set of controls relating to a first plurality of medical conditions in response to accepting the first selection. The second graphical representation of anatomical features and the first set of controls are displayed simultaneously without at least partially obstructing each other. Present claim 18 is directed to a device for documenting medical findings of a physical examination, which includes an electronically readable media for storing instructions and a processor. The instructions implement a method similar to that of claim 9.

In its rejection, the PTO turns to Lewis. Lewis discloses an anatomical user interface for accessing health care information for a patient. The anatomic user interface generates an

anatomic model of the patient from which a practitioner drills down to and selects an anatomical structure for which healthcare information is to be accessed (Lewis, Abstract). Referring to FIGs. 4F, 5A, and 5B, the anatomical user interface enables the user to drill down to and select codes through a series of menus. In particular, the anatomical user interface uses the menus to determine whether the user has selected the ICD9 code option or the CPT code option from the menu. Once the ICD9 code option is selected, an additional web page is displayed by the browser that includes an ICD9 tab from which the user selects ICD9 codes (Lewis, par. 83-85). “The user must navigate a series of menus organized in accordance with the INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASE, 9th Edition, which classifies medical diagnosis in broad categories having more specific subcategories such as diagnosis, symptoms, complaints, conditions, or problem. Hence, the user must drill down to a specific ICD9 code through these menus (Lewis, par. 84).” Lewis discloses a similar interface for CPT codes (see, for example, Lewis, FIG. 4G).

With respect to the second graphic representation and the first set of controls being displayed simultaneously without at least partially obstructing each other, the PTO relies on paragraph 0110 and FIG. 4H. However, paragraph 0110 and FIG. 4H are not present in the parent application and have an effective priority after the filing date of the present application. Referring instead to FIGs. 4C-4G of the parent application to Lewis, selection of an anatomical feature is shown in each instance to lead to a second window obstructing the anatomical image and preventing action from being taken with respect to the anatomical image until the window overlying the anatomical image is removed or deactivated.

The PTO asserts in the Advisory Action that FIG. 4D of the parent application to Lewis shows a partially obstructed view and thus, the anatomical feature is not obstructed. Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition (see attached sheets) defines obstruct as “to hinder from passage, action, or operation: impede.” Clearly, the anatomical feature in FIG. 4D is hindered from action until the window identified as 412 in FIG. 4D is removed.

Nevertheless, Applicants have amended the claims to recite “without at least partially obstructing each other.” Accordingly, the claim language precludes both partial and complete obstruction.

As such, Lewis fails to teach or remotely suggest simultaneously displaying a graphical representation of anatomical features and a set of controls relating to the plurality of medical conditions in a single interface without at least partial obstruction. Moreover, Lewis fails to teach or remotely suggest displaying such an interface in the context of a drill down interactivity through anatomical features. In particular, Lewis fails to teach or suggest accepting a first selection of an anatomical feature and, in response to accepting the selection, displaying a second interface including a graphical representation of anatomical features and a set of controls associated with medical conditions.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention includes displaying an interface including both a second graphical representation of anatomical features and a first set of controls relating to a first plurality of medical conditions simultaneously and without at least partially obstructing each other. Displaying the interface is performed in response to selection of an anatomical feature based on a first graphical representation of anatomical features. Such a simultaneous display of a selectable graphical anatomic representation and a set of controls associated with a plurality of medical conditions in a context of an anatomic drill down organization is not taught or suggested by Lewis or its parent application.

Lewis is further deficient with respect to other claimed subject matter. For example, Lewis fails to teach or suggest a drill down button (claim 27), a change system button (claim 28), an annotation control (claim 40), or a list of recent findings (claim 42), among others. Moreover, Lewis fails to teach or remotely suggest simultaneously having the second graphical representation of anatomical features and the first set of controls active as recited in claim 51.

Further, Applicants have discovered that the presently claimed invention provides additional technical advantages not taught or suggested by the cited art, such advantages being indicative of non-obviousness. In particular, the presently claimed methods and system lead to improved physician efficiency during patient encounters. Such an improved efficiency may lead to a reduction in the amount of time a physician uses to document a patient encounter, allowing the physician to spend more time examining a patient and reducing physician error. For example, the presently claimed methods permit documentation of a medical finding with two clicks or selections by the physician (i.e., selection of an anatomical feature from a selectable

anatomical image followed by selection of a medical finding associated with the anatomical feature or selection of a more detailed anatomic feature). In contrast, the methods of Lewis require at least four clicks or selections (i.e., selection of an anatomical feature from a group of anatomical features, selection of a code type, selection of a code, and selection of a control designed to move the code into a subsequent list). As such, the method of Lewis adds inefficiencies to patient encounter documentation not found in the presently claimed invention.

For at least the forgoing reasons, claims 9-11, 16-20, 25-31, 40-42 and 44 are not anticipated by Lewis. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection.

2. Claims 39 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Present claim 39 further states that the first set of controls includes a tri-state control configured to indicate present, not present, or not entered. The method further includes accepting from the user an indication of not present, the indication resulting from the user selecting the tri-state control twice and storing data associating the indication with the first selection.

The PTO correctly acknowledges that Lewis does not explicitly teach tri-state controls. However, the PTO appears to argue incorrectly that the control does not functionally relate to the substrate of the method and misinterprets the discussion in the present application of the function of the tri-state control as labeling of the control. In fact, the function of a tri-state control in the context of a medical application has particular significance, as described in the present specification.

A tri-state control has three states. In the context of a medical interface, the states can represent that a condition or finding is “present,” “not present,” or “not entered.” The label of the control is different from the state and can take a linguistic form, such as “calor,” “contusions,” or “discoloration,” as illustrated, for example, in FIG. 10 of the present application.

Moreover, Lewis fails to teach or remotely suggest accepting from the user an indication of not present resulting from the user selecting the tri-state control twice. As such, Lewis fails to teach or remotely suggest each and every element of claim 39.

With respect to claim 43, the PTO appears to rely on Official Notice that wireless tablet computers were old and well known in the art at the time of the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse such Official Notice, noting the early priority date of the present application. Further, the use of such wireless tablet computers in the context of a system permitting the anatomical drill down documentation of medical findings is both novel and non-obvious.

For at least the forgoing reasons, claims 39 and 43 are patentable over Lewis. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection.

3. Claims 52 and 53 are new and are patentable over the cited references.


Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

3.10.08
Date



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Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

to — obli-v-ous-ly adv — obli-v-ous-

L oblongus, fr. ob- toward + longus long
lating from a square, circular, or spherical
dimension (an — piece of paper) (an ~

quies [ME, fr. LL obloquium, fr. obloqui
to speak] (15c) 1: a strongly con-
vulsive language 2: the condition of one that
syn see ABUSE

~adj [L obnoxius, fr. ob in the way of, ex-
tend at NOXIOUS] (1597) 1 archaic: exposed
harmful — used with to 2 archaic: de-
sist or disgustingly objectionable: highly
adv — ob-nox-ious-ness n

~n [L ob-nubilis, fr. ob in the way of, ex-
tend at NOBILIS] (1583) 2: DECEITFUL
n [L ob-nubilis, fr. ob in the way of, ex-
tend at NOBILIS] (1583) 2: DECEITFUL

~n [L ob-nubilis, fr. ob in the way of, ex-
tend at NOBILIS] (1583) 2: DECEITFUL
n [L ob-nubilis, fr. ob in the way of, ex-
tend at NOBILIS] (1583) 2: DECEITFUL

fr. Gk obolos, obelos,
ent Greek coin or

(785) : ovate with the
ves) — see LEAF il-

~) : avoid with the
(an ~ fruit)
[ME, fr. L obsecutus,
USF, to the senses
nt to morality or vir-
e to lust or depravity
age regarded as fa-
cs) e : repulsive by reason of crass danc-
e : ~ wealth) (waste) syn see COARSE

~s-a- n, pl -ties (1589) 1: the quality or
something (as an utterance or act) that is

ob- or ob-scure-ran-tic \ab-skyu-'ran-tik/
ob-scure — obscurant n

an-til-zam, ob-; ab-skyu-'ran- n (1834) 1:
of knowledge: a policy of withholding
public 2 a : style (as in literature or art)
vagueness or abstruseness b : an act or in-
ob-scure-ran-tic \ab-skyu-'ran-tik/ n or adj

adj [ME, fr. MF obscure, fr. L obscurus] (15c)
ed in or hidden by darkness e : not clearly
d : FAINT 2 : not readily understood or
YSTERIOUS 3 : relatively unknown: as
not prominent or famous (an ~ poet) 4
d vowel \a/ or having unstressed \a/ as its

ob-scure-ness n

~GUE, ENIGMATIC, CRYPTIC, AMBIGUOUS,
rly understandable OBSCURE implies hid-
through some inadequacy of expression or
edge (obscure poems). DARK implies an im-
on often veiled with ominous or sinister sug-
of revenge). VAGUE implies a lack of clear
quate conception or consideration (a vague
MATIC stresses a puzzling, mystifying quali-
ty). CRYPTIC implies a purposely concealed
hidden treasure). AMBIGUOUS applies to lan-
one interpretation (an ambiguous direc-
language left open to differing interpreta-
deceiving or evading (moral precepts with

~ing (15c) 1: to make dark, dim, or in-
side by or as if by covering 3: to reduce (a
ob-scure-ra-tion \ab-skyu-'ra-shan/ n

~n, pl -ties (14c) 1: one that is obscure
cing obscure

~s, ab-adj [ME, compliant, fr. L obsequi-
t, fr. obsequi to comply, fr. ob-toward +
OB-, SUE] (15c) : marked by or exhibiting a
see SUBSERVIENT — ob-se-qui-ous-ly adv

l-iques [ME obsequi, fr. MF, fr. ML obse-
quiae, fr. exsequi to follow out, execute —
a funeral or burial rite — usu. used in pl.
l-adj (1609) 1: NOTWORTHY 2: capable
RIBLE — ob-serv-abil-ity \ab-serv-'bi-
ob-serv-ably \ab-serv-'bi-ly/ adv

~s) n (13c) 1 a : a customary practice, rite,
y) b : a rule governing members of a re-
lance of following a custom, rule, or law
f: an act or instance of watching

602) 1 a : paying strict attention: WATCH-
KEEN, PERCEPTIVE 2: careful in observ-
ions) : MINDFUL (pious and religiously ~
always ~ of the amenities) — ob-ser-vant-

in assiduous or obsequious servant or atten-

shant, -zar- n [MF, fr. L observatio, obser-
1: an act or instance of observing a custom,
E 2 n : an act of recognizing and noting

fact or occurrence often involving measurement with instruments
(weather ~s) b : a record or description so obtained 3: a judgment
on or inference from what one has observed; broadly : REMARK,
STATEMENT 4 obs : attentive care : HEED 5 : the condition of one
that is observed (under ~ at the hospital) — ob-ser-va-tion-al

~n, sh-a-n-ly adj — ob-ser-va-tion-al-ly adv
ob-ser-va-to-ry \ab-zar-'voh-'tor- n, pl -ries [prob. fr. NL obser-
vatorium, fr. L observare] (1676) 1: a building or place given over to
or equipped for observation of natural phenomena (as in astronomy);
also : an institution whose primary purpose is making such observa-
tions 2: a situation or structure commanding a wide view

observe \ab-'zar-va/ vb ob-served; ob-serv-ing [ME, fr. MF observer, fr.
L observare to guard, watch, observe, fr. ob- in the way, toward + serv-
to keep — more at CONSERVE] vt (14c) 1: to conform one's ac-
tion or practice to (as a law, rite, or condition): comply with 2: to in-
spect or take note of as an augury, omen, or presage 3: to celebrate
or solemnize (as a ceremony or festival) in a customary or accepted
way 4 a : to watch care(fully) esp. with attention to details or behavior
for the purpose of arriving at a judgment b : to make a scientific ob-
servation on or of 5 : to come to realize or know esp. through consid-
eration of noted facts 6 : to utter as a remark ~ vt 1 a : to take no-
tice b : to make observations: WATCH 2: REMARK COMMENT syn
see KEEP — ob-serv-ing-ly \ab-'zar-'vig-'le/ adv

ob-ser-ver \ab-'zar-va/ n (ca. 1550) : one that observes: as a : a repre-
sentative sent to observe but not participate officially in an activity (as
a meeting or war) b : an expert analyst and commentator in a particu-
lar field (political ~s)

ob-sess \ab-'ses, ab-'s/ vb [L obsessus, pp. of obsidere to frequent, besiege,
fr. ob- against + sedere to sit — more at OB-, SIT] vt (1531) : to haunt or
excessively preoccupy the mind of (was ~ed with the idea) ~ vt : to
engage in obsessive thinking: become obsessed with an idea

ob-ses-sion \ab-'ses-shon, ab-'s/ n (1680) 1: a persistent disturbing preoc-
cupation with an often unreasonable idea or feeling; broadly : compell-
ing motivation (an ~ with profits) 2: something that causes an ob-
session — ob-ses-sion-al \ab-'ses-shon-'l/ adj — ob-ses-sion-ally adv

ob-ses-sive \ab-'ses-siv, ob-'s/ adj (1901) 1 a : tending to cause obsession
b : excessive often to an unreasonable degree 2: of, relating to, or
characterized by obsession: deriving from obsession — obsessive n —
ob-ses-sive-ly adv — ob-ses-sive-ness n

obsessive-compulsive adj (1927) : relating to or characterized by re-
curring obsessions and compulsions esp. as symptoms of a neurotic
state — obsessive-compulsive n

obsid-ian \ab-'si-de-an/ n [NL obsidianus, fr. L obsidianus lapis, false
MS reading for obsidianus lapis, lit. stone of Obsius, fr. Obsius, its sup-
posed discoverer] (1796) : a dark natural glass formed by the cooling of
molten lava

ob-so-l-esce \ab-'so-'les/ vb -lesced; -lescing [L obsolescere] vt (1873)
: to be or become obsolescent ~ vt : to make obsolescent

ob-so-l-es-cence \ab-'so-'les-'s/ n (ca. 1841) : the process of becoming ob-
solete or the condition of being nearly obsolete (the gradual ~ of ma-
chinery) (reduced to ~)

ob-so-l-es-cent \ab-'so-'sent/ adj (1755) : going out of use: becoming obsolete
— ob-so-l-es-cent-ly adv

ob-so-lete \ab-'so-'let, ab-'so-'l/ adj [L obsoletus, fr. pp. of obsolescere
to grow old, become disused, perh. fr. ob- toward + solere to be accus-
tomed] (1579) 1 a : no longer in use or no longer useful b : of a kind
or style no longer current: OLD-FASHIONED 2: of a plant or animal
part: indistinct or imperfect as compared with a corresponding part
in related organisms: VESTIGIAL syn see OLD — ob-so-lete-ly adv —
ob-so-lete-ness n

ob-so-lete-ly -let-ed; -let-ing (1640) : to make obsolete

ob-sta-cle \ab-'sti-kol, -sti-'l/ n [ME, fr. MF, fr. L obstaculum, fr. obstare
to stand in front of, fr. ob- in the way + stare to stand — more at OB-
STAND] (14c) : something that impedes progress or achievement

obstacle course n (1943) : a military training course filled with obsta-
cles (as hurdles, fences, walls, and ditches) that must be negotiated;
broadly : a series of obstacles that must be overcome

ob-stet-ric \ab-'ste-trik, ab-'/ or ob-stet-ri-cal \ab-'tri-kal/ adj [modif. of L
obstetricus, fr. obstetric, obstetric midwife, fr. obstare] (1742) : of, re-
lating to, or associated with childbirth or obstetrics — ob-stet-ri-cal-ly
-tri-'k-'le/ adv

ob-stet-ri-cian \ab-'sto-'tri-shan/ n (ca. 1828) : a physician specializing in
obstetrics

ob-stet-ric \ab-'ste-triks, ab-'n/ pl but sing or pl in constr (ca. 1819) : a
branch of medical science that deals with birth and with its antecedents
and sequels

ob-sti-na-cy \ab-'sto-na-'se/ n, pl -cies (14c) 1 a : the quality or state of
being obstinate: STUBBORNNESS b : the quality or state of being diffi-
cult to remedy, relieve, or subdue (the ~ of tuberculosis) 2 : an in-
stance of being obstinate

ob-sti-nate \ab-'sto-na/ adj [ME, fr. L obstinatus, pp. of obstinare to be
resolved, fr. ob- in the way +stinare (akin to stare to stand)] (14c) 1
: persistently adhering to an opinion, purpose, or course in spite of rea-
son, arguments, or persuasion 2: not easily subdued, remedied, or re-
moved (~ fever) — ob-sti-nate-ly adv — ob-sti-nate-ness n

syn OBSTINATE, DOGGED, STUBBORN, PERTINACIOUS, MULISH mean
fixed and unyielding in course or purpose. OBSTINATE implies usu. an
unreasonable persistence (an obstinate proponent of conspiracy theo-
ries). DOGGED suggests an admirable often tenacious and unwavering
persistence (pursued the story with dogged perseverance). STUBBORN
implies stubbornness in resisting change which may or may not be admi-
table (a person too stubborn to admit error). PERTINACIOUS suggests
an annoying or irksome persistence (a pertinacious salesclerk refusing
to take no for an answer). MULISH implies a thoroughly unreasonable
obstinacy (a mulish determination to have his own way).

ob-strep-er-ous \ab-'stre-po-'ras, ab-'/ adj [L obstreperus, fr. obstreperare
to clamor against, fr. ob- against + strepere to make a noise] (ca. 1600)
1: marked by unruly or aggressive noisiness: CLAMOROUS (~ merrim-
ent) 2: stubbornly resistant to control: UNRULY syn see VOCCI-
FEROUS — ob-strep-er-ous-ly adv — ob-strep-er-ous-ness n

ob-struc-tion \ab-'strukt, ab-'v/ n [L obstructus, pp. of obstruere, fr. ob- in the
way +struere to build, heap up — more at OB-, STREW] (1590) 1 : to
block or close up by an obstacle 2 : to hinder from passage, action, or

operation : IMPEDE 3 : to cut off from sight (a wall ~s the view)
syn see HINDER — ob-struc-tive \ab-'strak-tiv/ adj or n — ob-struc-tive-
ness n — ob-struc-tor \ab-'tor/ n

ob-struc-tion \ab-'strak-shon, ab-'n/ (1533) 1 a : an act of obstructing
b : the state of being obstructed; esp : a condition of being clogged or
blocked 2 : something that obstructs

ob-struc-tion-ism \ab-'sho-'niz-izm/ n (1879) : deliberate interference with
the progress or business esp. of a legislative body — ob-struc-tion-ist
\ab-'sho-'nist/ n or adj — ob-struc-tion-is-tic \ab-'sho-'nis-tik/ adj

ob-tain \ab-'tan, ab-'v/ vb [ME obtineere, fr. MF & L; MF obtinere, fr. L
obtinere to hold on to, possess, obtain, fr. ob- in the way +tinere to
hold — more at THEN] vt (15c) : to gain or attain usu. by planned action
or effort ~ vi 1 archaic : SUCCEED 2 : to be generally recognized or
established : PREVAIL — ob-tain-abil-ity \ab-'tan-'bi-li-ty/ n — ob-
tain-able \ab-'tan-'bal/ adj — ob-tain-er n — ob-tain-ment \ab-'tan-
ment/ n

ob-tect \ab-'tekt, ab-'v/ also ob-tect-ed \ab-'tek-'ted/ adj [L obtectus, pp. of
obtegere to cover over, fr. ob- in the way +tegere to cover — more at
THATCH] (ca. 1902) : enclosed in or characterized by enclosure in a
firm chitinous case or covering (an ~ pupa)

ob-trude \ab-'trud, ab-'v/ ob-trud-ed; ob-trud-ing [L obtrudere
to thrust at, fr. ob- in the way +trudere to thrust — more at OB-, THREAT]
vt (ca. 1609) 1 : to thrust out : EXTRUDE 2 : to force or impose (as
oneself or one's ideas) without warrant or request ~ vi : to become un-
duly prominent or interfering : INTRUDE — ob-truder n

ob-tru-sion \ab-'tru-zhon/ n [L obtrusio, obtrusio, fr. L obtrudere]
(1579) 1: an act of obtruding 2: something that is obtruded

ob-tru-sive \ab-'tru-siv, -ziv/ adj (1667) 1 a : forward in manner or con-
duct (~ behavior) b : undesirably prominent 2 : thrust out : PRO-
TRUDING syn see IMPERTINENT — ob-tru-sive-ly adv — ob-tru-sive-
ness n

ob-tund \ab-'tund/ vt [ME, fr. L obtundere] (14c) : to reduce the edge or
violence of : DULL (~ed reflexes)

ob-tu-ra-tion \ab-'tyu-'ra-shon, -to-'n/ n [L obturation, obturatio, fr. ob-
turator to obstruct] (1610) : OBSTRUCTION. CLOSURE — ob-tu-rate \ab-
tyu-'rat, -to-'v/

ob-tu-ra-tor \ab-'tyu-'ra-tor, -to-'n/ n [NL, fr. L obturare] (ca. 1741) : one
that closes: as a : one (as a prosthetic device) that closes or blocks up
an opening (as a fissure in the palate) b : a hooded swelling of the pla-
centa that fits over the nuchalis in some plants

ob-tuse \ab-'tüs, ab-'v/ ob-tus-ed; ob-tus-ing [ME, fr. L obtusus blunt,
dull, fr. pp. of obtundere to beat against, blunt, fr. ob- against +tundere
to beat — more at OB-, CONTUSION] (15c) 1 a : not pointed or acute
BLUNT b (1) of an angle : exceeding 90 degrees but less than 180 de-
grees (2) : having an obtuse angle (an ~ triangle) — see TRIANGLE il-
lustration c of a leaf : rounded at the free end 2 a : lacking sharpness
or quickness of sensibility or intellect : INSENSITIVE, STUPID b : diffi-
cult to comprehend : not clear or precise in thought or expression syn
see DULL — ob-tuse-ly adv — ob-tuse-ness n

ob-verse \ab-'vars, ab-'v/ adj [L obversus] fr. pp. of obvertere to turn
toward, fr. ob- toward +vertere to turn — more at OB-, WORTH] (ca.
1656) 1: facing the observer or opponent 2: having the base narrow-
er than the top (an ~ leaf) 3: constituting the obverse of something
: OPPOSITE — ob-verse-ly adv

ob-verse \ab-'vars, ab-'v/ n (1658) 1: the side of a coin or curren-
cy note bearing the chief device and lettering; broadly : a front or prin-
cipal surface 2 : a counterpart having the opposite orientation or
force (their rise was merely the ~ of the Empire's fall — A. J. Toyn-
bee); also : OPPOSITE 1 (Joy and its ~, sorrow) 3 : a proposition in-
ferred immediately from another by denying the opposite of what the
given proposition affirms (the ~ of "all A is B" is "no A is not B")

ob-vi-ate \ab-'vi-'at, ab-'v/ -at-ed; -at-ing [L obviatus, pp. of obviare
to meet, withstand, fr. L obviam] (1598) : to anticipate and prevent (as a
situation) or make unnecessary (as an action) — ob-vi-a-tion \ab-'vi-
a-shon/ n

ob-vi-ous \ab-'vü-'s/ adj [L obvius, fr. obviam in the way, fr. ob in the
way of +vi-am, acc. of via way — more at OB-, VIA] (1603) 1 archaic
: being in the way or in front 2 : easily discovered, seen, or under-
stood syn see EVIDENT — ob-vi-ous-ness n

ob-vi-ous-ly \ab-'vü-'s-ly/ adv (1638) 1: in an obvious manner (showed his an-
ger ~) 2 : as is plainly evident (~, something is wrong)

oca \ä-'kə/ n [Sp, fr. Quechua oca] (1604) : either of two So. American
wood sorrels (Oxalis crenata and O. tuberosa) cultivated for their edible
tubers; also : the tuber of an oca

oc-a-ri-na \ä-'kə-'re-nä/ n [It, fr. It
dial., dim. of oca goose, fr. LL
auca, fr. L avis bird — more at
AVIARY] (1877) : a simple wind in-
strument typically having an oval
body with finger holes and a pro-
jecting mouthpiece

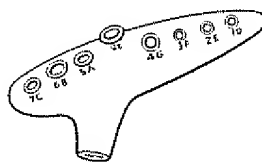
Oc-cam's razor \ä-'käm-z/ n [Will-
iam of Occam] (ca. 1837) : a sci-
entific and philosophic rule that en-
tities should not be multiplied
unnecessarily which is interpreted
as requiring that the simplest of
competing theories be preferred to the more complex or that explana-
tions of unknown phenomena be sought first in terms of known quan-
tities

oc-ca-sion \ä-'kä-zhon/ n [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L occasio, occa-
sio, fr. occidere to fall, fall down, fr. ob- toward +cadere to fall — more
at OB-, CHANCE] (14c) 1 : a favorable opportunity or circumstance
(did not have ~ to talk with them) 2 a : a state of affairs that pro-
vides a ground or reason (the ~ of the discord was their mutual intol-
erance) b : an occurrence or condition that brings something about;
esp : the immediate inciting circumstance as distinguished from the

\ä/ abut \ä/ kitten, F table \ä/ further \ä/ ash \ä/ ace \ä/ mop, mar
\ä/ out \ä/ chin \ä/ bet \ä/ easy \ä/ go \ä/ hit \ä/ ice \ä/ job
\ä/ sing \ä/ go \ä/ law \ä/ boy \ä/ thin \ä/ the \ä/ foot \ä/ foot
\ä/ yet \ä/ vision \ä, k. p. oc. oc. see Guide to Pronunciation



oboe



ocarina